

Roe Statement On The Economy

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Congressman Phil Roe (TN-1) made the following statement on the House floor regarding the economy:

“Mister/Madame

Speaker, when I was home this weekend in Johnson City, I met a few small business owners who are really feeling the effects of the economy.

“One

is the fourth generation owner of the Glenn Wynne Paint and Wallpaper Company. Like many responsible small business men and women, he’s trying to figure how to keep his company around long enough to ride out our economic crisis. He started with 25 full time employees for whom he provided benefits, including health care. First, he had to cut back on health care and then eliminate it altogether. Then, he cut 15 percent of the workforce, and reduced it again to 15 employees. Finally, he cut 10 percent of the pay for all employees including himself. He even went so far as to cut out the \$90 per month he was paying for trash removal, choosing to haul the trash himself. He also cut out cable TV.

“As

he sees it, he’s making tough decisions on how to keep his company financially stable during rough economic times, but he’s astounded that people in Washington can’t do the same, especially because help isn’t being targeted for businesses like his that really need it.

“Another

individual I met has been in business for 35 years and has very little debt, which makes it easier for him to survive this crisis. He had to cut his staff from 50 to 18 employees and has cut unnecessary expenses. What he’s mad about is that while he hears the talk about wanting to help small businesses, he still has hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars in fees he has to pay to OSHA and Tennessee’s Department of Labor and Workforce Development. As he sees it, large employers can afford these fees and weather the storm, but he can’t as a small business. He would like to see

the government make it easier for small businesses to stay in business by easing up on the regulation when they can least afford it.

"Of

course, what I had to tell these two individuals is that they make too much sense to get their ideas heard in Washington. We haven't tightened our belts and gotten our financial house in order, and we certainly haven't curtailed unnecessary regulations on small businesses or reduced their user fees to help them weather the economic storm. It's time we start acting more responsibly and pass legislation that will stimulate economic growth and prevent our children from bearing the burden of the crushing debt we're racking up to pay for our irresponsible choices of the present.

"On

top of this economic stimulus bill comes the President's budget, which spends too much, taxes too much and borrows too much. With a worsening economic forecast, you would think that we would be talking about how some of the President's ambitious proposals can be scaled back. In fact, I read that new economic numbers show larger deficits than the President originally predicted – and these numbers were already significant.

"Instead,

the Administration and its Democratic colleagues are insisting they will press ahead with the agenda undeterred, as though we don't have an economic crisis.

"The

President is not at fault for the state of our economy, and I know he's sincere in his desire to get us back on track. But it's important he acknowledge the impact of our current economic crisis on his agenda. The recession does impact his ability to spend billions upon billions of dollars to meet his priorities.

"I

think many Americans will take it as a positive sign if the President told people frankly that because of our recession he will have to scale back his agenda and focus all our efforts on restoring economic growth. The American people will appreciate hearing this because it's what they are already doing, and I think they would have more confidence in their government if we acted more like them."

To

view this speech, please [click here](#).

Yesterday,
Roe spoke on the House floor regarding health care. To view this
statement, please [click here](#).